Try as we might, it was found absolutely impossible to persuade the people to cultivate the lands. Mr. Chandy, with his intimate personal knowledge of local conditions, met all their apparent objections and exhorted them, on behalf of Government, to spare no effort in stepping up their paddy production during the season in order to enable the authorities to meet an unprecedented situation affecting the entire State. Both of us assured them that Government would safeguard them against any possible loss—all to no purpose. It was in these circumstances that the lands had to be assumed.

Even when resorting to such a measure, Government safeguarded the interests of the ryots by leasing the lands to the owners themselves or their nominees—and that, on a mere nominal pattom in every case. What is more, the entire expenditure on pumping charges, amounting to about Rs. 80,000, has been borne by Government.

(President's bell.)

The question whether a sum of Rs. 10,56,524—under demand II—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income pay be sanctioned was put and carried. The grant was made.

DEMAND III—STAMPS.

Mr. A. Lekshminarayana Aiyar (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 1,00,091—under demand III—Stamps.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 1,00,091 under Demand III—Stamps was put and carried. The grant was made.

DEMAND IV—FOREST.

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant for Rs. 14,45,195 under Demand IV—Forest.

Mr. Kochikkal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, I wish to congratulate Government on the good income they are making. I was rather anxious and in fact I thought the situation created by the war was being exploited just to show an increase in income in a manner which could not be quite justified under the rules governing the wise conservation of forests. But looking into the reports and on close personal enquiries I understand that we are making these huge profits without in any manner impairing due conservation of our forests. I am also glad that with the co-operation of the Public Works Department they are making Forest Roads and that timber which was going to waste is being now utilised, bringing

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